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IMPORT NEWS

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For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ NOT A SURPRISE

Vale ruling another bump on rough ride

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — One of the residents involved in a class-action lawsuit against nickel giant Vale says the decision by the Supreme Court of Canada handed down last week is "heartbreaking."

"It has certainly been a struggle over the last decade with countless ups and downs," said Diana Wiggins, who has been involved in the lawsuit and a community-based risk assessment process that looked into historic soil contamination on Port Colborne's east side for the past 12 years.

see VALE | page 2

■ SUPREME COURT OF CANADA: Ruling a final decree that \$36-million class-action award will not be paid to Port Colborne residents



The Supreme Court of Canada rejected hearing an appeal of the class-action lawsuit by residents living around the former Inco plant in Port Colborne.

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Supreme Court of Canada has dismissed an application by residents in the class-action lawsuit against Vale for a leave to appeal a lower court ruling made last year.

The decision was released Thursday and contains no more than a few lines about the dismissal. A reads: "Decision on the application for leave to appeal, CJ Ro Mo, The application for leave to appeal from the judgment of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, Number C52491, 2011 ONCA 628, dated October 7, 2011, is dismissed with costs. Dismissed, with costs."

The Supreme Court leave to appeal was over an October 2011 decision by the Ontario Court of Appeals that dismissed the class-action lawsuit against nickel-mining giant Vale and ordered a \$36-million award to Port Colborne residents.

The decision was rendered by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin and Justices Marshall Rothstein and Michael J. Moldaver.

see COURT | page 2

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■ COURT

Door is open for other lawsuits

FROM PAGE 1

It puts an end to the 11-year class-action lawsuit originally filed by Port Colborne resident Wilf Pearson in 2001, and taken over by Ellen Smith in 2009.

Lawyer Eric Gillespie, of Eric K. Gillespie Professional Corp., who filed the original lawsuit against Vale, formerly Inco, said while the decision puts an end to the class action, it now opens the doors for individuals or groups of individuals in Port Colborne — some 7,000 residential

property owners — to file actions against the company.

Gillespie said the class-action lawsuit, brought forward to deal with property values affected due to soil contamination by nickel and other metals, "stopped the clock" on the ability of individual claims to be brought against the company.

"That was also true of agricultural properties up until a couple of years ago when the decision was made to focus on residential property issues."

The lawyer is aware of claims now in the court system against the mining company, which operated a nickel refinery in Port Colborne between 1918 and 1994, and still has operations in the city.

"We have been in communication with people considering their options," Gillespie said.

As for the Supreme Court decision, he said in the course of the 11-year action decisions have gone back and forth between plaintiffs and Vale.

"Vale sought leave to appeal a decision on the certification of the class action ... that went against them. The outcome of this case has always been uncertain to some degree."

The Supreme Court, he said, only grants a limited number of cases a leave to appeal and statistically, the odds of the residents' leave to appeal was limited.

"There were two other class actions that were not granted leave to appeal either. There's been some discussion in legal circles that this particu-

lar group of Supreme Court justices don't feel a lot more guidance is needed regarding class actions in Canada."

Gillespie said the test in granting a leave to appeal is not whether a Court of Appeals in any province was correct or not, but rather a question of whether matter is of national importance.

"The Supreme Court is not necessarily saying the decision is correct or not, it's saying the issues raised don't reach a level of national importance ... It wouldn't

assist judges in other parts of the country."

In dismissing the appeal, the court also said costs associated with the case were to be paid to Vale. Last year, those costs were assessed at \$100,000.

But said Gillespie: "The costs are yet to be decided. There's a hearing in June before Judge Joseph Henderson that may go to the Court of Appeals on the cost issue."

Costs won't fall on Smith, the lawyer said.

■ VALE

Residents disappointed in denial of leave to appeal

FROM PAGE 1

"One of the many reasons that kept me strong was knowing that so many people were backing us, not just here but around the world. Words cannot even begin to describe the disappointment I have in the justice system right now," Higgins said Friday.

The Supreme Court released its decision to deny a leave to appeal an October 2011 decision by the Ontario Court of Appeals that dismissed the class-action lawsuit against Vale — formerly Inco — and reversed a \$36-million award to Port Colborne residents.

Thursday's decision was rendered by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin and Justices Marshall Rothstein and Michael J. Moldaver and

puts an end to the 11-year class-action lawsuit originally filed by Port Colborne resident Wilf Pearson in 2001, and taken over by Ellen Smith in 2009.

"While this many not have been the outcome that had been anticipated from the Supreme Court, this decision does not come as a total surprise," said Smith, who lives on Rodney St. near the Vale plant.

Smith said the legal team of Eric Gillespie, who filed the original class-action, and Koskie Minsky's Kirt Baert and Celeste Poltak and their staff, were to be commended for their expertise and never-ending energy applied towards the lawsuit and trial.

"Gratitude must also be given to the late Wilf Pearson for leading this action for as

long as he could," she said.

Wiggins, too, tipped her hat to Pearson.

Wiggins said Judge Joseph Henderson got it right the first time when he ruled in favour of a \$36-million award to city residents.

"I suppose the next step is to join the ranks of those that chose to go on their own" and continue pursuing the matter in court on a case-by-case basis, she said.

"If any resident does decide to go on through the courts, they are more than welcome to contact me. I will share all information and knowledge with you to help you along as best I can," Wiggins said.

Smith said time will be needed to have further discussions with the legal team to

determine what steps may be next.

"As plaintiff of this class action and having been involved since it was first announced, I have gained a life experience that will never be forgotten," she said.

Vale, which as Inco operated a nickel refinery in Port Colborne between 1918 and 1994, still has operations in the city.

Mayor Vance Badaway said the city remains focused on dealing with soil contamination from refinery operations.

"We've worked with Vale for the last decade to move the community forward and make sure there were no more environmental challenges. We want to ensure residents and post-industrial properties are dealt with in terms of the contamination."



QMI Agency Niagara file photo
Rodney St. resident Ellen Smith took leadership of the citizens' lawsuit after the former leader died recently.



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portraits

■ **FUNDRAISER:** Development and Peace aided by Lakeshore teens



Bio-degradable balloons are released at the ThinkFast event.

Special to InPort News



A group of Lakeshore students paint pots during the ThinkFAST event.

Special to InPort News

Students think, fast for Third World justice

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Dancing, games, live music, karaoke, a silent auction and a biodegradable balloon release were just some of the activities held as part of ThinkFAST at Lakeshore Catholic High School last week.

ThinkFAST, said Alicia Pinelli, spirituality co-ordinator for the student council, is a 25-hour fast held to raise funds for the nonprofit organization Development and Peace.

Development and Peace is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis.

"The funds are used in Third World countries to help them become sustainable," said Pinelli, who organized the event with the help of her fellow student council members

She said ecological justice was the theme for the event, which kicked off with students starting a fast on Thursday at 8 p.m. The fast was to end at 9 p.m. on Friday and be followed by a

big feast with food from local businesses.

"This is the first time ThinkFAST has been held here ... we weren't doing any other major fundraisers this year," said Pinelli.



Special to InPort News

Mariah Kozlowski, left, and Adriana Gonzalez, try out their dance moves with the Dance Central2 game set up.

SPORTS NEWS

Published by InPort News

Sun Media Corp.

228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5

Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660

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Our view

McGuinty strikes again

On the issue of opening Ontario to more gambling, Premier Dalton McGuinty clearly said that the province will not force communities to accept casinos. His exact words were: "We're not going to put a casino into a community that doesn't want one."

It's difficult to argue with that. After all isn't that the way senior governments should be considered the views of the people before proceeding to make major changes to their communities?

This statement from the premier comes as a surprise for two reasons. First, the Dalton Gang has made it abundantly clear that it is betting the farm on revenues from gambling. So when it comes to casinos, you'd assume the more the merrier, no matter who doesn't want them.

Casinos became a big issue when members of this government finally came to understand that they are incapable of controlling spending and don't have the stones to be in control. In one of the silliest examples of "spin" in recent memory, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said he welcomes Standard and Poor's outlook because it underscores the need for restraint as the government negotiates wage issues with the public service, including doctors and teachers.

Duncan admits that members of his own government have proven themselves incapable of leaving lifting on the finance file and therefore he is happy to have an outside agency help. So the Grifts will continue to take the easy road, which means more casinos and more revenue from what amounts to taxes on the poor.

The second surprise in McGuinty's newfound respect for the people in communities affected by provincial decisions is the about-face that it represents.

Many people in rural towns and townships who don't want wind factories, otherwise known as turbine developments, have been shown no such respect by the province.

In fact, members of the Liberal government have turned deaf ears to all voices that originate anywhere in the boonies. That applies on issues beyond the wind factories. For example, many rural areas have been home to casinos and want to continue to keep them. But the government has yanked many of them out of racetracks, where they helped support the horse race and related industries that employ thousands in rural Ontario. With wind factories, instead of being respected, objectors are treated as if they belong to the Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) club. The government's message has been: "Just sit back and take what the government wants to shove down your throats."

In spite of that crass assessment of rural opinion, NIMBYism has little to do with the wind factory protests.

But nobody at Queen's Park wants to hear that or listen to all the other factors in play.

It's obvious then that only the opinions from urban Ontario, which vote Liberal in the last provincial election, count in this province.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

It's about who you know, not what you know

PASTOR JEEVA SAM
Forks Road East and
Morgan's Point United Churches

A recent immigrant to Canada was sharing with me how she had started life in this new land by taking on a job that required hard physical labour, simply so she could support herself and her family back home. Shortly thereafter she added part-time courses to her agenda and eventually got a diploma in another field. Now it was time to find a job in the new field, which would pay more and open up more doors for advancement in the years to come.

Unfortunately, she could not find a job as quickly as she had hoped. Instead it was her mislaid optimism, perhaps it was a matter of supply and demand, I do not know. However, after seeing some of her classmates land jobs, she had come to the conclusion that "It's about WHO you know, not WHAT you know."

Her words took me to Matthew 7:22-23 where Jesus says: "Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and work miracles in your name before you?' and he will answer them, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

readers views

Look offshore

Mr. Rankin's long discourse on the merits of wind power have validity from a corporate point of view. The wind turbines foundations use tonnes of concrete which would lead to greatly increased profits for Rankin Construction.

Large scale wind energy has a future but there is a better way of getting there which is less intrusive, more efficient and ultimately less controversial than these giant land based machines. Mr. Rankin can pursue his offshore dreams with the big turbines with a lot less controversy... the technical complexities in Lake Erie would be his greatest challenge, but since he has the financial clout, government in that direction would eventually prevail and the resulting wind farms would become a reality.

For the alternative and better land based wind energy way, research what's going on locally in Waifleet, that potential would be a better fit for Mr. Rankin's projected altruism.

Jesus was talking about a group of people who profess to be his followers, as evidenced by their addressing him as "Lord." They were able to do what most onlookers would label as being extraordinary actions. Yet Jesus deals quite harshly with these superstars who manifest the supernatural in his name. Why? Because they were content with WHAT they knew, not WHO they knew.

The folly of such misplaced focus is illustrated in Acts 19, where seven sons of Sceva invoked the name of Jesus to drive out evil spirits from a man. Here is what happened: "One day the evil spirit answered them, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?' Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding." Why such horrific results? They thought it was about WHAT they knew, but Jesus was talking about their horror that it was really about WHO they knew! Obviously they did not know Jesus!

The word "know" in the Bible has a broader scope than mere head knowledge. The Hebrew word for "yada" as well as the Greek word "ginosko" refer to the kind of knowing that one has by experiencing a relationship with another. When you read in the

King James Bible that "Adam knew Eve and she conceived," you know that her pregnancy did not come about by the two of them exchanging phone numbers and gaining more information about each other from Facebook profiles.

The word "know" refers to an intimate knowledge. You can know a lot about me by reading about me, listening to my serious online or watching a video of me, but you don't "yada" me the way my wife does, amean?

In a similar vein, Jesus states that he is more interested in his followers knowing him intimately, and not just being informed about him. To simply learn how to follow him and adhere to his teachings without growing in an intimate relationship with him is simply not acceptable to Jesus.

After all, is this not how Jesus himself lived in relationship with his Father? He often took time to simply be with Him as he went away by himself into the desert places. Yes, he knew how to prophesy, drive out demons and perform many miracles, but it was all done from a place of intimacy with the Father.

We who claim to follow Jesus would do well to follow suit. Because, as far as he is concerned, discipleship is more about WHO you know, not WHAT you know.

Ladies enjoyed night out

The Port Colborne Optimists would like to thank all the ladies who came out to the second annual Girls Night Out on Thursday, April 12. It was a huge success.

We would also like to thank the following businesses for their support and donations — without their help we would not have been able to raise the needed funds to help the kids of Port Colborne. Thank you to Judy's Bakery, Smokin' Buddha Restaurant, Super Mario's Pizza, Country Corner Market, M&M Meat Shops, Food Basics, No Frills and Bodner's Market.

Also to Niagara Helicopters, MarineLand, Niagara Parks, Theatre Aquarius, St. Jacob's Schoolhouse, Theatres, Boston Pizza — Welland and SCC Computers for their donations to the door prizes. Also to the 17 vendors who helped make the night something special.

continued on page 5

By the way the 550 metre setback was based on calculations which are now being reviewed by the wind industries themselves, particularly the Danes.

Originally the 550 figure was based on the assumption that a disturbance from the turbine would settle down to ambient conditions 550 metres (2.5 diameters?) downstream of the location, suggest that the Danes have found that it is closer to 2,000 metres, and the downstream disturbance pulls air from up to 1,000 metres above the disturbance corridor to mix into the airstream

An event which lowers the air temperature and affects barometric pressure.

Since Mr Rankin's turbine technology proposed for Waifleet is dated, it would suggest that the Danish findings should be bundled into any considerations, particularly with regard to the more recent work on downstream effects.... see <http://www.risoe.dk/vea/storpark/Papers/040902/posters/storpark.pdf>

John Mitchell
Port Colborne

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■ readers' views

FROM PAGE 4

Special thank you to Randy Thomas for his time and his amazing voice that kept the ladies entertained and to Jerry of Joseph's Winery for giving the ladies a taste of your incredible wine. Also to Teresa Shelton for providing the psychics for the night — everyone had great time learning a little more about themselves.

To Carole and the staff of Brebeuf Hall, thank you for all the work you do help put this event together.

Last but not least, to Sharny Pollard, Miss Pole Dance Canada 2011, owner of Sharny's Artistic Strength Studio in Stoney Creek. Thank you again performing for the ladies, you and Melody and Sheena did an amazing job. And to the wonderful volunteer firefighters of Port Colborne, thanks for making so many of the ladies happy.

The Optimist Club is looking forward to next year's event, making it more fun for the ladies of Port Colborne.

Susan Brown
President, Port Colborne Optimists

■ COLUMN

Non-Sporting Breeds of Group 6 from China and Japan

The Chow Chow breed from China is at least 2000 years old. It is the one of only two breeds of dog to have a blue-black tongue.

There are small bears in China with black tongues as well.

Because of this the Chow Chow was known as "hsung kou" meaning "bear dog". In some areas he is known as "lang kou" meaning "wolf dog" although they don't look like a wolf. His more sophisticated name is "hei she 'ou" which means "black tongued". The name Chow Chow may have come from the word "chao" which means "dog of great strength" as he was used for hunting and had to be strong. Other historians believe his name came from the word "Tchau" meaning Chinese traders. The items that they



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOGS LIFE

traded which included dogs, were known as "tchau tchau."

In English it just became "chow chow." The English also gave them the nickname of Lion Dog because they looked like lions with their thick coats and the mane around their heads.

The Chinese Shar Pei looks somewhat like a Chow Chow but with a smooth, short coat. As a puppy their skin is too loose for their bodies and they need to grow into it. The loose skin on their faces gives them many wrinkles. Great care is needed

to keep these wrinkles clean and free from infections until they grow into their skin. In the 1970 this breed was almost extinct but thanks to many dedicated breeders, the breed has survived and is very popular today. The Shar

Pei are dignified and loyal to their family. They are affectionately known as the wrinkle dogs.

There are at least six Japanese Spitz type breeds. The largest is the Akita which is found in the Working Group. The Sanhu, the Shika and the Ainu are not yet registered in Canada. The Shiba Inu was the oldest and the smallest of the original spitz breeds of Japan. His name means "small dog." He was used for hunting small game. All the Japanese spitz breeds have sharp

upright ears, tails that curl over their backs, husky/wolf type heads and serious expressions. They are

all bold and independent. The Japanese Spitz is the newest breed developed in Japan in the 1920's. By the 1940's it was standardized so they all looked the same. They are 12 inches tall, snow white, with a soft fluffy coat. They are a bit larger than their cousin the Pomeranian. The Japanese Spitz was developed to be a little companion and family pet. He has a cute foxy face that seems to be smiling all the time. He is now considered the smallest Japanese breed and is a recognized breed in Canada.

Next Time: More Non-Sporting Dogs from Around the World



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■ COLUMN

College rejection isn't the end of the world

Rejection is not that bad. It's the most dreaded season of every high school senior's life — college acceptance time.

Whether or not you have a 98.9 average or are involved in every sport offered at your school, we still panic every time we open our mailboxes or receive an e-mail from our potential universities.

Some of us are so paranoid that we even anticipate finding out the size of our envelopes. After all, rumour has it that a small envelope indicates a rejection, while a large one reveals not only the golden ticket of our acceptance, but also information on residence, fees, sports and ways you can get involved.

But what do you do when the letter you receive begins something along the lines of, "We regret to inform you that



Michelle Pressé
CANADIAN GIRL,
ITALIAN LIVING

after much consideration, we are unable to offer you a spot in the Class of 2016?"

The feeling of being rejected by your dream school is upsetting, embarrassing, and even demoralizing. You daydreamed for months about the people you're going to meet, the city you will be moving to, and have even brooded online about buying a school sweater so you can show off your spirit at the first homecoming football game.

It's OK to be upset for a while, but don't let rejection get the best of you — instead, make the most of it.

Being rejected from your dream

school is life's way of telling you, "Wrong direction."

It's important to keep an open mind about more than one school. Every university has something special to offer, and you may find that your second or even third choice is perfect for you.

Reflect on what is truly important. Were you only excited about your school of first choice because all of your friends were going there? Did it appeal to you because it's in a foreign city? A family legacy? Or because your high school sweetheart had already been accepted and you were hoping to wear matching scarfs while studying together in the courtyard?

The city in which the school is located is important, because it will be your home for the next four years or more.

However, it is important to not hang onto high school life after

graduation.

Of course there will still be many people whom remain friends and keep in touch with, but college opens the door to a whole new world with people waiting to meet you.

The key purpose of pursuing a post-secondary education is to obtain your degree of choice. It is also a milestone in life that teaches you what it's like to be independent and responsible for your total self, which is a freedom that is not available in high school. Unless, of course, you're

one of the chosen ones with extremely laid back parents.

College also introduces you to new experiences and people that you would not have had upon going to the school in which you thought you were destined to go to.

Even if you aren't accepted to your first choice of college, have no fear. When fall rolls around the corner, you'll be so excited about the school you responded to that you'll have completely forgotten about the one who made the mistake of rejecting you.

LAKESHORE STUDENTS ON THE GRIND



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Sparks fly as Lakeshore Catholic High School student Mitchell Conness grinds a piece of metal outside the school on Friday morning. He and other students were grinding legs for benches.

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■ GREAT KIDS

'I feel like they are part of my family'



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
Roman Grosh, from the Rotary Club, left, presented plaques to Great Kids in the Cool to be Kind 13 to 18 category including finalist, Daniel MacPhee-Phillips, Zachary Mayer, Jasmine Theriault and Brianna Irving.

FROM PAGE 7

Vanderzee, who has organized the event for the past seven years, said every youth in attendance was a "Great Kid."

"It's so great to meet them after reading their stories. I feel like they are part of my family," she said.

In Wainfleet 14-year-old Ryan Boros joined the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council to help make a difference after coming through surgery to loosen leg muscles and taking a positive outlook on life. He sees the world for what he can do and not what cerebral palsy keeps him from doing.

While a young Fonthill actress Breton Lalama soars to great heights playing leading roles in her school plays and playing feature parts with

Garden City Productions.

There were many other stories of overcoming illness, making a difference in the community and success in the face of adversity.

Jackson Root, a Great Kids finalist from last year, told this year's Great Kids to stay positive.

"Sometimes things seem really bad and you feel like they may never get better, but they do," he said.

Kendall Gallagher presented two acoustic songs for proud families.

Deb Zahra, Boston Pizza franchisee and judge, said Great Kids is an amazing program and youth need to be recognized.

"It's nice to see them being recognized for good things. It's all too often you hear negative things about kids, but this is so positive, it's awesome," she said.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
Boston Pizza's Welland franchisees, Deb Zahra, from left, presented plaques to Great Kids in the Personal Best 6- to 12-age category: finalist Anastasia Groch, semifinalists Kayla Bevacqua, Erika Doucet and Roger Montpetit.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Increase in Building Permit Fees

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne will hold a public meeting on the 28th day of May, 2012, at 6:30 P.M., in the Council chambers at City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, in order to consider a proposed Schedule of Permit Fees structure under Section 7 of the Building Code Act.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT – The City of Port Colborne is proposing to adopt a new schedule of permit fees pursuant to its new Building By-law following a review of the building permit fees under Section 7(b) of the Building Code Act. The effect will be to increase some of the existing permit fees and introduce new fees. Information will be provided at the meeting on the estimated costs of enforcing and administering the Building Code Act, the rationale for changing and imposing fees and the amount of the proposed fee(s).

ANY PERSON may submit written comments prior to the meeting or attend the public meeting and make written or verbal representation at the time of the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is contained in Council Report No. 2012-12, "Comprehensive Building By-law & Permit Fee Structure" approved in principle at the Council meeting of April 23, 2012 and is available on the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca or during regular office hours from the Municipal Clerk's Department at the municipal offices.

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

Positives in our lives like Resurrection

FR. DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT

St Ignatius of
Antioch Orthodox Church

Not even Christ's disciples understood much of what he had taught them over three years! But after his death and resurrection they began to understand.

And neither we nor anyone will begin to understand our faith until we believe in Christ's resurrection from the dead.

When St Paul was on trial before Governor Festus and King Agrippa, he referred to the hope of the promise made by God to

the fathers about the resurrection from the dead. And he asked them, "Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?" (Acts 26:8).

After all, God created the universe, which is now billions of earth years old in all its expanding magnitude and microscopic complexity. Such a Creator was and is certainly able to raise the dead! And Christ raised Lazarus and others from the dead as concrete examples of the eternal and fundamental transformation he will bring about for all mankind on judgment day.

The resurrection of our Lord from the dead is the reason

why St Paul could urge the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil 4:4). The resurrection is so great and immense a positive truth that we would be utterly foolish not to rejoice in its solid hope.

Life in our fallen world will have its ups and downs, and some of the downs like bereavement will be bottomless pits, but the resurrection hope is the anchor for our faith and confidence in Christ. However bereavement and failure may affect our emotions, let us stand assured and confident that God will raise the dead just as he created his amazing universe

out of nothing at all.

And in this universe, in our world and in our own day, no matter the horrors and tragedies, there is still much that is positive. St Paul goes on in Philippians 4 to tell us to think on true things, noble things, just things, pure things, lovely things that can happen even in today's sordid world. He is telling us to meditate on virtues and praise worthy things.

Let us open our eyes and ears

to such positive and encouraging things, for they are there and they bear witness to God's goodness here and now and they bear witness to Christ's ultimate victory at the end of time and his new creation.

But being positive is not enough, though it is reason enough to rejoice. St Paul also exhorts us to pray to God with thanksgiving. Prayer and thanksgiving are the lines of communication between

heaven and earth.

I give St John the last word in this 40 day Paschal season. St John tells us, "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:3-5).

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■ BUSINESS AFTER 5 HELD BY BRIDGES



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Program manager Carinne Smith checks the pulse of executive director Tarailea McLean as they show Bridges Community Health Centre's new quarters to Patti Stirling, president of Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce and vice-president John Wayne. The chamber held its Business After 5 at the centre, now at 127 King St. in Port Colborne. The centre features a large collection of Port Colborne photos throughout its offices, treatment rooms and meeting hall.

■ FLAGS AT HALF-MAST IN TRIBUTE



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Lakeshore Catholic High School teacher Tino Nuccitelli, left, and student Tyler Dekker with Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey raise the high school's flag at city hall on Friday. It, along with other flags, were set at half-mast for the National Day of Mourning and for Trade Week at the school.

■ DEWITT CARTER: Big day for school



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
District School Board of Niagara education director Warren Hoshizaki addresses visitors at an open house Friday marking the 100th anniversary of DeWitt Carter School in Port Colborne.

Port school celebrates a century of teaching

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — When DeWitt Carter Public School was built in 1912, Port Colborne was just a small town with only 1,300 people.

Back then the school on Fares St. was known as East Side School and had four rooms with classes as large as 80 students.

"Can you imagine a class with 80 students?" Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey asked the crowd assembled to celebrate the school's 100th anniversary last week.

In addition to the mayor, other politicians and District School Board of Niagara representatives, there were about 200 former students of the elementary school, spanning many decades, who attended an open house.

One of those former students was Bob Saracino, who went to the school from 1942 to 1950 when it taught kindergarten to Grade 8, which as DeWitt Carter does today.

Saracino said it was overwhelmingly to tour the DeWitt Carter, the name it took on in 1950, and see the differences.

"The school is really flourishing," he said.

Warren Hoshizaki, District School Board of Niagara's education director, said it is remarkable for a school to have survived and thrived over a century.

"Many things have changed and many events have taken place throughout the last 100 years, but one constant has been quality education for students at DeWitt. Schools are vital centres of communities, and we are so pleased DeWitt Carter has stood the test of time," Hoshizaki said.

He said dedicated staff, eager students and supportive parents are key ingredients that go into making a great school.

"DeWitt Carter has it all and has served its students and community well over the last 100 years. It will continue to be a lively place, where students will thrive in their learning and develop skills and knowledge they need to achieve their dreams," he said.

School principal Jay MacJanet said DeWitt Carter currently has 260 students and has the capacity to hold about 400. Those students, he added, spent time researching the various decades of the school and putting together displays for the open house.

Visitors and former students could see a decade of school life laid out in various classrooms throughout the school, taking in the full 100 years the school has been open. A display was also set up in the school's library.

"More than 500 people came through in two hours," MacJanet said.

Planning for the event started in September 2011 and he said it would not have been possible if not for the work and help of parents, students, teachers, staff and members of the community.

"This is a total community event — everyone has been involved and it's been great. DeWitt Carter is a real community school," the principal said.

Badawey, whose grandmother and father attended DeWitt, said the school continues to grow, making it an important meeting place in the East Side Village of Port Colborne.

"This school has become more than a building. It continues to be a home for the faculty, volunteers and most important, the students," he said.

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■ **VIEW:** Restaurant moving in above Sugarloaf Harbour Marina

Don Cherry's Sports Grill coming to town

InPort News Staff

POR T COLBORNE — A well-known restaurant franchise is set to open at Sugarloaf Harbour Marina this May, said its general manager and the City of Port Colborne.

Don Cherry's Sports Grill will be located above the marina

building, overlooking Gravelly Bay, Lake Erie and H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park. It will be the third location in Niagara and joins nearly 20 other ones across Canada.

"As a longtime resident and as a diehard hockey fan, I am thrilled to be part of the Don Cherry's Sports Grill launch.

Port Colborne is a perfect location, and everyone associated with Don Cherry's is looking forward to getting involved in our community," said Rick Cole, general manager.

The restaurant will feature a newly-renovated deck with outdoor TVs and live entertainment. The restaurant

is expected to have a staff of approximately 50.

"Don Cherry's will enhance our community's reputation as a quality destination. Whether it is for great food, entertainment, unique gift shops, the sights and sounds of our waterfront, fun vibrant activities or sports and recreation..." said

Mayor Vance Badawey

"This investment will be complemented by the many waterfront activities within this part of our community including Boarder Pass Wakeboarding — an innovative cable wakeboarding system that will locate at the marina," the mayor added.

In addition to the new

Don Cherry's Sports Grill, the marina will be home to a renovated pavilion area, available for catered private functions of all sizes and styles. The pavilion will be serviced by Hospitality on Hand, a catering company featuring chef Mark Hand, a 30-year veteran of the Niagara hospitality industry.

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■ **BILLS:** Average resident to pay an extra \$33.84 this year

Port soaking water users for a little extra

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

Port Colborne residents an average of \$33.84 more this year.

City council approved the lakeside city's water

and wastewater rates on Monday night, which means a 2.98% annual increase for the average user of 0.75 cubic metres of water per

day.

While water usage rates have decreased to \$1.095 a cubic metre from \$1.128 a cubic metre in 2011, the

annual fixed charge for water and wastewater usage rates and the annual fixed charge for wastewater have all increased.

The annual water fixed charged is up to \$259.44 from \$251.21 in 2011.

see **BILLS** | page 17

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■ **BILLS**

Wastewater usage raised to \$1.133 a cubic metre

FROM PAGE 16

Wastewater usage has been set at \$1.133 a cubic metre, up from \$1.049, and the annual wastewater fixed

charge increased to \$298.58 from \$287.05.

Port Colborne's water system accumulated an \$86,676 surplus in 2011

and the wastewater system \$322,551 in surplus funds.

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny said Port Colborne has the second highest water and

sewer fixed rates among Niagara municipalities. Only Fort Erie ranked higher in both categories.

Kenny questioned why,

despite the surpluses, there was an increase in sewer usage rates.

In 2011, the city budgeted to hire a locate technician and

a water distribution operator, but the positions were not filled until March of this year.

see **BILLS** | page 18

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FROM PAGE 17

Because the funds budgeted for the positions carried over to 2012, they appear as a portion of the surplus from 2011. The funds are not actually surplus, however, as they will be used this year to cover salaries of the two new staff members, said Peter Senese, the city's director of community and corporate services.

City staff recommended to council that the remaining water surplus be transferred into reserve for the replacement of the west side bulk water station.

It was also recommended the wastewater surplus be transferred to reserve to fund the 2011 wastewater reconciliation amount, \$384,000, owed to Niagara Region in 2013.

Reconciliation occurs each year when actual usage is compared to the amount of usage each municipality has budgeted for, Senese said.

Flows in 2011 were higher than what was budgeted for, he added, which resulted in the city owing the significant amount to the region.



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■ **INCLUSION:** Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet saluted during its 50th year

Golden milestone for community gem

MARYNNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — For the past 50 years, Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet has worked to create a sense of belonging for all members of the community — no matter their

abilities.

The organization, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, was recognized by Port Colborne city council Monday night for its long-standing service.

It was in 1962 that a small group from Port Colborne came together in hopes

“We’re dedicated to helping people live quality lives.”

Community Living president George Henry

of providing support and services for children and adults with intellectual

disabilities. The organization has since grown to include hundreds of clients

and dozens of programs and initiatives within the community.

“We’re dedicated to helping people live quality lives,” said Community Living president George Henry, who credits the hard work of staff and volunteers for the success the organization has seen over

the years.

To celebrate the milestone anniversary, Community Living plans to host a series of events throughout the year, including its annual general meeting and open house on June 21.

see **COMMUNITY** | page 20

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SENIORS' TUESDAY

■ COMMUNITY

'Everyone belongs,' says mayor

FROM PAGE 19

"All are invited to come," Henry said, hopeful people will visit the McRae Ave. facility to learn more about Community Living and its history.

May is Community Living Awareness Month. Henry encouraged residents to celebrate the occasion by

including individuals with intellectual disabilities into their social activities.

Mayor Vance Badawey, who presented Henry with a plaque in recognition of Community Living's many years of service, credited the organization for "making sure Port Colborne truly is a community where everyone belongs."

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet, represented by president George Henry, left, and executive director Vickie Moreland, centre, was honoured by Port Colborne city council on Monday night, represented by Mayor Vance Badawey, right, for its 50 years of service in the community. The organization is celebrating its milestone anniversary in 2012 with a series of events, including its annual general meeting and open house on June 21.



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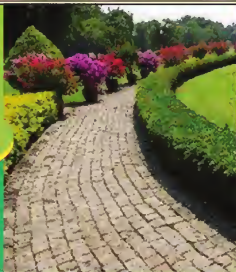
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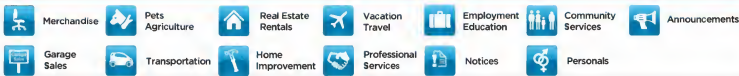
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■ 4 BUDS IN A BUNKY: Three-day, two-night fundraiser hoped to generate \$20,000 plus food



VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Sleeping in a yurt for two nights wasn't enough to keep them away.

This year the brave campers

VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
Caitlin Battista, marketing and communications co-ordinator for Port Cares and from left, Mike Sloat, Dave Barrick and Dave Barrick, were ready for Buds in a Bunky, a three-day, two-night fundraiser for Port Cares starting May 16.

have upgraded to a bunky. Mike Sloat, Dave Hawkins, Dave Elliott and Dave Barrick will return to live in the Port Cares parking lot on Charlotte St. for three days and two nights to raise money for the organization and its initiatives.

Their fundraising extravaganza, 4 Buds in a Bunky Part 2, starts Wednesday, May 16, at 7:45 a.m., with breakfast in the Reach Out Food Centre. Tickets for the breakfast are \$20 and are still available.

"We had such a great time last year, (we decided) why not do it again?" Barrick says. "It's for such a great cause and it's organized really well."

Hawkins says while the men were raising money for Port Cares' Reach Out Food Centre campaign in 2011 they learned just how many people rely on Port Cares.

"Last year we noticed the amount of food needed to feed the food bank was astronomical, so this year we wanted to raise money to go to any Port Cares initiative and mostly fill the food bank," Hawkins says. "There will be a number of barbecues during the event which ends Friday, May 18, at 1 p.m."

"Port Cares gives so much back to the community and they help so many people, it needs support to continue,"

Sloat says.

Caitlin Battista, Port Cares marketing and communications co-ordinator, says the men raised more than \$20,000 last year.

Plus, the community donated more than 900 kilograms of food.

Similar results are hoped for this year.

Elementary schools in the area have been challenged to bring as much as they can.

Port Cares is still looking for corporate sponsors for the event and barbecues.

For more information, to sponsor or for tickets to the kickoff breakfast call Hawkins at 905-688-2444 ext. 233.

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